

Message Text

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SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PRINCE PHISADET

REF: STATE 028924

SUMMARY: PRINCE BHISADEJ RAJANEE IS A RESPECTED, HARD-WORKING AND ENERGETIC FIGURE, OF KEY SIGNIFICANCE IN THE PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE UN FOR THE WELFARE OF THAILAND'S HILLTRIBES. BRITISH-EDUCATED AND AN ACTIVE SPORTSMAN, HE IS A COUSIN OF THE KING OF THAILAND AND SEEMS TO HAVE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE WITH HIM. END SUMMARY.

1. PRINCE PHISADET (BHISADEJ RAJANEE) IS A BRIGHT AND ENERGETIC MAN OF ABOUT 50. HE IS THE YOUNGEST SON OF THE LATE KROMMAMUEN PHITTHAYALONGKON. HIS SISTER, MOM CHAO WIPHAWADI RANGSIT, IS THE PRINCIPAL LADY-IN-WAITING TO THE QUEEN, AND THE LATE PRINCE WAN WATTHAYAKON WAS HIS HALF BROTHER. PHISADET IS MARRIED TO MOM RATCHAWANG DATCHARIRATCHANA (NEE WORAWAN), WHO IS ALSO A LADY-IN-WAITING TO THE QUEEN, AND WHOSE FAMILY OWNS THE VOLKSWAGEN CO. OF THAILAND. THEY HAVE 3 CHILDREN. ONE DAUGHTER IS MARRIED, AND TWO CHILDREN ARE STUDYING IN ENGLAND.

2. PHISADET RECEIVED DEGREES IN HISTORY LAW, AND ECONOMICS FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY. HE HAS WORKED AS A PUBLIC

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RELATIONS OFFICER FOR THE SHELL CO., AND FOR A FEW YEARS

RAN A PRIVATE BUSINESS SELLING GIFT STAMPS. HE HAS WORKED WITH THE KING'S HILLTRIBES PROJECTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND IS CURRENTLY PROJECT DIRECTOR, CHIANG MAI OFFICE OF THE UNPDAC. PHISADET IS FUN-LOVING AND PHYSICALLY ACTIVE. HE IS CONSTANTLY ACCOMPANIED IN PUBLIC BY YOUNG UNIVERSITY CO-EDS, AND HAS EARNED THE NICKNAME, "THE PLAYBOY PRINCE," AMONG FOREIGNERS, ALTHOUGH HIS INTEREST APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY INNOCENT. HE ENJOYS SAILING AND HORSEBACK RIDING, AND IS AN AVID HIKER WITH GREAT STAMINA.

3. PHISADET IS HEADSTRONG AND INDEPENDENT, AND HAS LITTLE PATIENCE WITH THAI BUREAUCRATS OR THE BUREAUCRATIC ROUTINE. HIS UN ASSOCIATES HAVE DESCRIBED HIM AS DISORGANIZED, AND AT TIMES THEY HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH HIM WHEN HIS IDEAS RUN COUNTER TO THEIRS. HE IS VERY CLOSE TO THE KING, AND SEEMS TO HAVE A CERTAIN INFLUENCE WITH HIM. PHISADET IS FREE TO INVITE ANYONE TO DINNER WITH THE KING WHEN THE LATTER IS ON HIS VISITS TO THE NORTH, HE IS ALWAYS ON THE KING'S RIGHT WHEN THEY APPEAR TOGETHER IN PUBLIC, AND THE KING HAS BEEN SEEN TO JOKE WITH HIM PUBLICLY. HE RUNS THE KING'S HILL TRIBE PROJECT WITH A BROAD MEASURE OF FREEDOM, AND HAS A GENEROUS EXPENSE ACCOUNT FROM THE KING. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AND FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, MOM RATCHAWONG THONGNOI THONGYAI, HAS BEEN HEARD TO COMPLAIN THAT NO ONE KNOWS HOW MUCH OF THE KING'S MONEY PHISADET SPENDS, AND THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME JEALOUSY OF HIS POSITION IN COURT CIRCLES.

4. PHISADET SEEMS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE CONTINUATION OF BOTH THE KING'S AND THE UN'S HILLTRIBES PROJECTS. THE KING'S PROJECT IS STILL RATHER UNSTRUCTURED, FEW OF ITS OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED, AND THERE WOULD BE LITTLE LEFT OF IT IF PHISADET QUIT. IN ADDITION, ALL OF THE THAIS WORKING ON THE UN PROJECT ALSO WORK WITH PHISADET ON THE KING'S PROJECT, AND FEEL GREAT PERSONAL LOYALTY TOWARDS HIM. IF HE PULLED OUT, MANY WOULD LEAVE WITH HIM, AND THE PROJECT WOULD SUFFER GREATLY.

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